



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q66292

Takahiro NAKA

Appln. No.: 09/955,048

Group Art Unit: 2166

Confirmation No.: 8499

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: September 19, 2001

For: OPTIONAL PART FOR APPARATUS, APPARATUS HAVING OPTIONAL PART,
ACCESS DEVICE, METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTING OPTIONAL PART AND INK
CARTRIDGE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. Nevertheless, since a statement can be made, a statement is submitted herewith.



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl Mexic

Darryl Mexic
Registration No. 23,063

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/955,048

Attorney Docket No.: Q66292

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 11-198485 corresponds with EP 0929032 submitted herewith.

Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 2000-94715 corresponds with EP 0985537 submitted herewith.

Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 2000-503921 corresponds with AU 199716071 submitted herewith.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

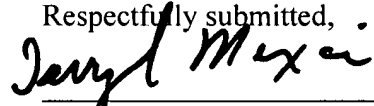
The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

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Date: April 19, 2004

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/955,048
Confirmation Number	8499
Filing Date	September 19, 2001
First Named Inventor	Takahiro NAKA
Art Unit	2166
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	Q66292

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US			
		US			
		US			
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GROUP 3600**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		JP	11-198485	A	7/27/1999		
		EP	0929032	A2	7/14/1999	Canon Kabushiki Kaisha	
		JP	2000-94715	A	4/4/2000		
		EP	0985537	A1	3/15/2000	Seiko Epson Corporation	
		JP	2000-503921	A	4/4/2000		
		AU	199716071	B2	8/22/1997	FB RICE AND CO	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.